

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are pending in the application. Claim 9 is herein added. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. (WO-03111978). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As described in the background art section of the present specification, the conventional composition comprising a polyoxyalkylene polymer containing a reactive silicone group has a problem in surface tackiness, which is inherent to a polyoxyalkylene polymer. If an amine compound is added thereto, the surface tackiness can be improved but there arise other problems in mechanical strength and tackiness to the substrate. If the amount thereof is increased, the time for disappearance of tackiness is shortened but a large amount of a white powder, *i.e.* carbonates, is separated out on a surface of a cured product, which impairs appearance.

The inventors of the present patent application discovered that further compounding an epoxy compound can solve the problems of the conventional composition. Namely, the presently claimed composition uses an epoxy resin and a curing agent for an epoxy resin containing a tertiary amine in a composition containing a primary or secondary amine.

Okamoto et al discloses an invention, which improves curability, restoring property, high strength, and high elongation at break by containing metal carboxylate salts and amines. Okamoto et al discloses working examples that contain an epoxy resin. See Okamoto et al, Table

1, Examples 1 to 4. In Examples 1 to 4 of Okamoto et al, the curing component is not a polyoxyalkylene polymer, but an isobutylene polymer. The isobutylene polymer has a problem in storage stability, which is inherent to the isobutylene polymer. This is further evidenced by the disclosure of JP10-87957, submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement herewith. In order to solve the stability problem, the epoxy compound is contained only in the isobutylene polymer. Actually, both EP505S and Epikote 828 are contained in the same main agent in Examples 1 to 4 of Okamoto et al. A skilled artisan would have no reason for containing it in a composition comprising a polyoxyalkylene polymer, where there is no such problem. This is a reason why the epoxy compound is not contained in the composition comprising a polyoxyalkylene polymer in Okamoto et al.

The advantageous results of the presently claimed composition can be seen in the disclosed examples in the present specification. See patent specification, page 24 – page 29. In comparative examples 1, 6, and 7, an amine compound is not present. In comparative example 5, there is only a small amount of amine. In comparative example 2, the melting point of the amine compound is low. Comparative examples 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 all have poor surface tackiness.

In comparative examples 3 and 4, there is no epoxy compound present. The surface tackiness of comparative examples 3 and 4 is good but the amine compound is separated out and the appearance of the curable composition is bad. If the epoxy compound is used together with an amine compound, the result is good surface tackiness and good appearance of the curable composition.

The presently claimed curable composition achieves unexpected results in good surface tackiness over Okamoto et al. Comparative example 5 in the present specification corresponds to the composition of Okamoto et al, except for the use of a polyoxyalkylene polymer rather than an isobutylene polymer. Based on the disclosed results, the time for loss of tackiness is more than 210 minutes, which is twelve times longer than of Example 4 of Okamoto et al.

Thus, the presently claimed curable composition is unobvious from the disclosure of Okamoto et al since the effects of the presently claimed composition are unexpected from the disclosure of Okamoto et al.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

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Art Unit: 1796

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 062554

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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